The new "Political History of England, "in volumes, under the general editorship the Rev. William Hunt and Dr. Reginald ane Poole (Longmans, Green & Co.), pros apace. The two latest volumes, II. d III., cover the period from the Norman conquest to the death of King John, by prof. George Burton Adams, and that from tenry III. to the death of Edward III., by of T. F. Tout of the Victoria University Manchester. Both are eminently reectable, taking into consideration the ews of the latest authorities, and both ek the inspiration and the style that make sllam and Hume and even Lingard still adable. There is a curious divergence views with regard to authorities, Prof. dams sanely puts stress on the importance the chronicles; Prof. Tout seems to have exaggerated estimate of the value of pe Rolls and Year Books. Valuable these are as confirmatory evidence and mportant in settling dates and names and ther landmarks, they surely cannot take he place of narratives by contemporaries. he actual Magna Charta is undoubtedly priceless treasure, but how much less sluable it would be if we were completely at of from knowledge of the events that

rought it into being. columes of unusual interest have added to the "American Commonseries (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) shode Island." by Mr. Irving Berdine chman, is, as he puts it, "a study in separa-Not only in its foundation and its ividual development did it stand by self in Colonial times, but the peculiarities its electorate gave it a character of its m down to Dorr's rebellion and later. the whole history could be treated ademately within the limits of this volume. he story of "Louisiana," which Mr. Albert belps tells, is perhaps the most picturque of any in the United States. The uthor, we fancy, dwells on the exciting vents somewhat at the cost of more quiet times. After the settlement, the French and Spanish rule, and the annexation, ith the battle of New Orleans, there is a ump to the war of secession and, it seems ous, too much strees on the shameful restruction period.

With so many books written of late on he French in America, there bardly seems oom for Mr. William Henry Johnson's French Pathfinders in North America" Little, Brown & Co.). It adds the settleents in South Carolina and Florida to the sual story of Canada, with the discovery the Mississippi and the Great Lakes, ut cannot compare in interest with the uller accounts. As a book for the young, owever, it may serve a useful purpose. Deviating from the plan of the other

volumes of the series, "Australian Life in fown and Country," by E. C. Buley, and Philippine Life in Town and Country," by James A. Leroy (G. P. Putnam's Sons), leal more with general conditions than with description and must therefore be considred to have a more serious purpose. Mr. Buley's book is an admirable piece of work; we have come across nothing that gives so clear and satisfactory an idea of what is going on at the antipodes. The chief forms of industry in Australia are described, with the agricultural and economical difficulties and the chief problems that face the new ommonwealth. Mr. Leroy's book suffers rom the difficulties that beset all Amerian books on the Philippines. The view of the natives and their conditions is too recent and the matters that interest the writer are not so much the people and the country as the difficulties about their new ons that trouble Americans at ome. It is these questions that he is swering, and his replies deserve consid-

A jumble of all sorts of matters is offered Mr. George Cary Eggleston as "Life in e Eighteenth Century" (A. S. Barnes & o.). It is "culture history," we suppose but even that should be less fragmentary.

#### Books About Art.

It might have been judicious in Mr. Samuel Isham if he had been writing a real "History of American Painting" (Macmillans) to have drawn a line at painters who are still living. That would have enabled him to give untrammelled judgments and would have limited the character of "American" to artists whom some peorle believe to have lone shown that quality in painting, if it loes exist. Mr. Isham's book, however we imagine, is intended for a broader public, which would be disappointed if familiar names were not included, so that his definition of "American" is very catholic, comprising Americans who paint in Europe nd Americans who are distinctly pupils of European masters. The inclusion of living ainters carries with it a limitation of critical vocabulary; something rleasant must be said of them all, whether it is deerved or not, and the opinion of contemoraries, not to mention the probable judgnent of posterity, is discreetly veiled. still, Mr. Isham has contrived to put toether a long list of Americans who have painted, from Peale and Stuart and Trumull to Miss Cecilia Beaux and Mr. Philip dale, including some good painters who will live and a multitude who will be forgotten in a decade. He has provided many ictures, reproduced in photogravure and n half-tone, not always the best specimens of the artists, and the publishers have made a very handsome volume of it.

Sir Joshua Reynolds seems to be in vogue again. Two important biographies were noticed not long ago, and now we have a fine edition of his "Discourses," edited by a distinguished English art critic, Mr. Roger E. Fry (E. P. Dutton & Co.). In his introduction Mr. Fry points out the permanent value of Reynolds's directions; to each of the fifteen discourses he prefixes brief critical remarks, and he illustrates the text with reproductions of the paintings referred to by Reynolds, accompanying each with a brief appreciation. His effort throughout is to make his author's meaning clear and not to depreciate, a rather uncommon thing in these days of destructive riticism of all that is past. No more helpful dition of the "Discourses" can be desired. In a short sketch, "The Cathedral Builders

England" (Seeley & Co.; E. P. Dutton Co.), which ranges from the earliest ructures to St. Paul's and the contemorary Truro Cathedral, Mr. Edward S Prior tries to express the intentions of the workmen not merely architecturally but artistically. His thesis is ingenious and interesting. He has made a careful study of the workmanship and illustrates his little book with a great many pictures, not from photographs, which do not render artistic values, but from drawings old and

It is a pity that the elaborate study called Florentine Palaces and Their Stories," by Janet Ross (J. M. Dent & Co.; E. P. Dutton Co.), should have been arranged in alphabetical order. That reduces it to the rank of a guidebook and almost limits its uses to risitors to Florence. The author has examined about eighty of these great private residences and public buildings, describes heir architecture and tells what has happened in them. The notices range from a dozen lines to many pages, as in the case of the Pitti palace, with plenty of tales of

mediæval romance and many modern associations. The work has been very well done, and the sketches by Adelaide Marchi

To the "Great Masters" series (George Bell & Sons; Macmillans) has been added "Peter Paul Rubens," by Hope Rea. It is a rather perfunctory biography, with more laudation than discrimination, but giving the main facts in the artist's life and accounts of his pictures. The author seems unduly shocked because Rubens's second wife served him as a model. That was surely a purely domestic matter. Objection to Flemish adipose in his nudes would have been more in place.

Nature in Various Aspects. Extremely interesting is the effort made by Mr. Arthur W. Clayden in "Cloud Studies"

(E. P. Dutton & Co.) to systematize the investigation of the clouds. As he points out, in more pompous language, we all of us are obliged to watch the clouds at some time or other. There is no doubt room for more definite designations of cloud form, just as there is for a scientific scale of smells, but we regret that Mr. Clayden should have picked out Latin terms, after the analogy of botanists and zoologists. Cirrus maculosus is by no means so de scriptive as mackerel sky. There is much entertaining matter about all sorts of clouds, with many fine and illustrative photographs. The author is striking into rather new ground in science.

An excellent little handbook of marine life along the Atlantic Coast has been written for the New York Zoological Society by Mr. Alfred Goldsborough Mayer, director of the Carnegie Marine Biological Laboratory at the Florida Tortugas, in "Seashore Life. The Invertebrates of the New York Coasts and the Adjacent Atlantic Coast Region" (A. S. Barnes & Co.). In admirably lucid language that any one without scientific training can understand, he describes and explains the smaller dwellers in the sea that are within reach of every one; starfish, jellyfish, sea urchins, clams, oysters, crabs, lobsters, barnacles, worms, octopuses and the rest. All these are the common material for early biological study, but the book will give pleasure as well as instruction to all who go to the seashore.

Mr. Edmund Selous has spent another season alone on a Shetland island and tells about it in "The Bird Watchers in the Shetland s"(J. M. Dent & Co., E. P. Dutton & Co.). It is presented as his diary during his stay, but if it be so it is an uncommonly methodical diary of extraordinary fulness. The record of an immediate observer of bird life, at any rate, cannot fail to be interesting. There is, perhaps, overmuch personal inference and attribution of human qualities to animals, but there is enough open air life to make the book attractive to others besides ornithologists.

The woods and lakes and rivers of Maine have been discovered by Mr. G. Stanton Smith, who tells about them in "Where the Sportsman Loves to Linger" (J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company). We imagine that the sportsman would rather not linger long in Mr. Smith's company. He demonstrates that no spot on earth can be kept free from the globe trotter. He tells us much about his own private affairs, and the reasons for his hatred of the beef trust, but he also tells about the more common cance trips in the wood, and how they may be carried out, and it will not be his fault if the Maine solitudes are not filled with holiday trippers. He took a camera with him and secured interesting

PUCCINI'S BOHEMIAN MUSIC. "La Boheme" Sung for the First Time This Season and Very Well.

Puccini's delightful opera "La Bohéme" was performed at the Metropolitan Opera House last night for the first time this season. The audience was a very large one, and its enjoyment of the work was not to be mistaken. This is worthy of record, be mistaken. This is worthy of record, because when this opera was first given in New York it was not appreciated either by press or public. That it has finally come to its true valuation is due to the admirable art of two singers, Mme. Sembrich and Mr. Caruso.

When Mme. Sembrich first sang Mime she had not developed her plan of interpretation, and her first act was disappointing both vocally and histrionically. But she

both vocally and instruments. Dut she is always an artist, and she was not content to let her impersonation rest in an unfinished state. It is now thoroughly developed in all its details, and it is one of the most symmetrical and interesting of her many

characterizations.

Last night she was in uncommonly good voice, and the slight cloudiness of tone which is sometimes noticeable in her first act was entirely absent. She sang and acted excellently throughout the evening, and her death scene was, as it has been from the first, a piece of beautiful stage-

from the first, a piece of beautiful stage-craft.

Mr. Caruso is at his best in the rôle of Rodolph. The long, sustained phrases of the melodies are perfectly suited to his great breath resources, and he floats them out to the audience with luscious tone and a complete appreciation of their sentimental character. He too was in good voice last night, and the duets between him and Mme. Sembrich were very good to hear. Mr. Caruso's acting was full of bourgeois humor, but he missed some of the finer points of the play of wit in the book.

in the book.

Mr. Scotti is a very neat fit in the rôle of Marcello, and Miss Alten's Musetta shows improvement. Messrs. Journet and Parvis were the other two Bohemians. The finale of the second act went well, and in fact the whole performance was good. Mr. Vigna conducts this opera better than he does several sothers.

WILLARD IN A DOUBLE BILL. Presents "The Man Who Was" and "A Pair of Spectacles."

E. S. Willard appeared last evening with his company at the New Amsterdam Theatre in a double bill, presenting Sydney Grundy's co e iv "A Pair of Spectacles," in which he took the part of the much deceived Mr. Benjamin Goldfinch, and in Kipling's "The Man Who Was," portraying in this the character of Austin Limmason.

Mr. Willard had excellent opportunity to display his versatility and in each of his personations he received warm and continuous applause.

personations he received warm and continuous applause.

Nothing more different from the man who was than Mr. Goldfinch could be imagined, and yet in each of them Mr. Willard's success with the audience was immediate

and assured.

Ernest Hallard shared with Mr. Willard the applause in the first play, appearing as Gregory Goldfinch. Both roductions were staged adequately and the supporting cast was equal to the demands made upon it.

PUBLICATIONS.

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BERNHARDT AND MARK TWAIN Appear Together at a Benefit for the Rus-

Mark Twain, who had not appeared on a stage for years past, chatted for ten minutes yesterday afternoon at the entertainment at the Casino for the benefit of the Jewish sufferers in Russia.

with members of her company, gave the third act of "Zira." Then came Sarah Bernhardt in a one act play by Miss G. Constant Lounsbery, "L'Escarpolette." Mme. Bernhardt has acted "L'Escarpolette" several times in Paris. "The play,"

theatric value.

Mme. Bernhardt played the lover, and her costume of eighteenth century skirt-coat and knee breeches became her to a marvel. Her bearing was boyishly erect and forcible, her diction, as always, supreme in precision and ductile grace, and she invested the part with a brilliance and a charm of comedy spirits more fetching by far than anything she has done in her repertory at the Lyric. For a quarter of an hour she was the embodiment of radiant and romantic young manhood.

Years ago, when I was living at Hartford, she played there and \$3 was the price of a ticket. A widow and her daughter, nice, cultivated people who lived next door to us, wanted to go, but didn't feel they had a right to spend \$6 for an intellectual pleasure when there were some people in the town starving. So they took the \$6 and sent it to the poor Smiths to buy bread with. The Smiths took the \$6 and bought tickets to see Sarah Bernhardt. I want to tell you one more story, the story of the lost opportunity. Young people don't

us older people doesn't know the pathos of the lost opportunity? In the village which is a suburb of New Bedford a friend of mine took me to the dedication of a to pointed out to me a bronzed, weatherbeaten old man over 90 years old. "Do you see any passion in that old man?

said he to me.

perfect volcano to you. I'll just mention to him something very casually." And he did. an outburst of profanity such as I had never heard in my life before. I listened to him with that delight with which one listens to an artist. The cause of it was this. When from a three year cruise and found the whole town had taken the pledge. He hadn't; so he was ostracized. Finally he made up his mind he couldn't stand ostracism any longer, and he went to the secretary and said: "Put my name down for that temperance society year cruise. It was torture to him to watch

ety, and said: "Take my name right off."

"It isn't necessary," said the secretary,
"you were blackballed."

Among those who had boxes were Jacob Schiff, Olga Nethersole, Margaret Anglin and Mme. Bernhardt, whose guest was Mark Twain.

The benefit brought in about \$2,500 from

"LINKS IN THE CHAIN." A German Play of Business Life at the

There was the head of a business which had been suddenly changed into a great corporation, and his subsequent and perhaps consequent follies—but the woman was his housekeeper—and she refused to have anything to do with marriage. It is a pleasant drama, notwithstanding the painful recitation by the woman of a deplorable incident in her past, which the head of the trust forgives in a way that is in keeping with his easy, uxorious and

head of the trust forgives in a way that is generous habit.

Gertrud Arnold as the housekeeper, Marianne, and H. Rudolphoe, the busines man whose relations thought he had gone wrong, were apparently highly enjoyed. On Thursday night "The Man of Many Trials" will succeed this play.

Four Candidates for Courtney's Place.

R. Farrell, M. Kempner.

PUBLICATIONS.

PUBLICATIONS.

"In face of the Russian revolution of to-day it excites special attention."-Boston Herald.

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with swift action and unabated interest." -Louisville Courier

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sian Jew Sufferers.

The programme was a long one, and included songs by Miss Kate Condon, 'cello selections by Auguste Van Biene, Hungarian dances by Ilka Palmay, Countess Kinsky; a scene from "Frederic Lemaitre," given by Henry Miller, and ballad singing by Chauncey Olcott. Miss Kitty Cheatham sang children's songs and Margaret Anglin,

Mme. Bernhardt has acted "L'Escarpolette" several times in Paris. "The play," said the programme, "is after the painting by Fergmard called "L'Escarpolette." It is also after—at least, in point of time—a host of plays and stories in which a young girl, affianced by her father to a man she has never seen, falls romantically in love, and in the end finds that the object of her supposedly forbidden passions is the dreaded suitor to whom her father has promised her. It is only a slightly different theme from that to which Rostand gave such memorable expression in "Les Romanesques." Miss Lounsbery's dramatic technique is none of the strongest; but she writes gracefully and cleverly, and the chief scene, in which the affianced couple make up as frights to repel each other, has an obvious rights to repel each other, has an obvious

What a delight it is to meet Sarah Bernhardt hand to hand, heart to heart! She is the youngest person I ever saw, except my-

realize the full sadness of it, but who of

"You don't; well, but I can make him a Well, that old man suddenly gave vent to that old man was a young sailor he came back of yours." Next day he left on another three

his men drinking and he pledged not to.
Finally he got home.

He got a jug of good stuff, ran to the soci-

the sale of seats. One result may be the appearance of Margaret Anglin with Bernhardt in a single performance of "Pelleas and Melisande." After seeing Miss Anglin's and Melisande." After seeing Miss Anglin's performance yesterday afternoon at the Casino, Mme. Bernhardt expressed the desire that Miss Anglin might play the rôle of Melisande with her in America, as Mrs. Patrick Campbell did in England. Mme. Bernhardt ran to Miss Anglin after her performance, which she had seen from the box, and kissed her on both cheeks. "You are superb," she said. "I should be so delighted to have you with me in 'Pelleas and Melisande.'" Miss Anglin said that she would be pleased, and in this event, one performance of the play in French would be given after Mme. Bernhardt's road tour and just before her return to Paris.

Irving Place.

For half a week "Links in the Chain" ("Kettenglieder") is to occupy the stage of the Irving Place Theatre. Its first presentation was last night, and with a little allowance for difference in countries it might have been taken for a modern-not to say a current-episode in high finance. There was the head of a business which

There are four leading candidates for the vacancy as Justice of the Court of Special Sessions in Brooklyn caused by the death of Justice John Courtney. They are Otto Kempner, formerly deputy commissioner of Public Works under Borough President J. Edward Swanstrom; County Clerk Edward Kaufmann, Magistrate John Naumer and Deputy Police Commissioner Thomas R. Farrell, Mr. Swanstrom is backing

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don).

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### THE MAN FROM RED-KEG

By Eugene Thwing

AMUSEMENTS. News of Plays and Players.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt will give a special Evgs at 8:15. Last Week Madam matinée performance of "La Tosca" on 621 St. West BERNHARDT
EXTRA MATINEE FRIDAY—"LA TOSCA"
Seats for this performance now on sale. Friday afternoon at the Lyric Theatre. This was arranged yesterday in response to the requests of scores of persons who were FIELDS Eys. S:15 DAILEY The Press Agen unable to procure seats for the rendering of that play to-morrow night. Blanche Bates in "The Girl of the Golden W. 42 St. Hest Seats \$1 at Wed. & Sat. Mats. EXIRA MA S. XMAS & NEW YEAR'S. West" will give special matinees on Thursday, December 28, and Thursday, January 4, at the Belasco Theatre.

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January 4, at the Belasco Theatre.

The seat sale for the Fritzi Scheff engagement, beginning Christmas night, will open at the Knickerboker Theatre this morning, instead of Thursday, as usual.

Burr McIntosh, official photographer of Secretary Taft's expedition to the Orient, will lecture at Daly's Theatre at 3:30 this afternoon. Mr. McIntosh's first talk will be illustrated with 200 views. MARIE CAHILL
in "MOONSBINE," HURTIG & SEAMON'S 125th St., bet., Mat. Broole-Arlaga, Mr. Mrs. Mark Murphy, OttoBros. & c

Murderer Baptized in Jali Bathtub. Edward F. Tareley, the Jersey City negro about 200 rations in the hospital, but so carefully did the firemen perform their duties that none of the rationts was alarmed, and who is under sentence to be hanged in the fully did the firemen perform their duties that none of the patients was alarmed, and some of them were not aware even that there was a fire in the building. The fire was in the ceiling of the boiler room. The damage was about \$500. PUBLICATIONS.

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Fri. Evg., Dec. 22, at 7:30-"GOETTERDAEM.

"ERUNG"-Nordica, Homer, Weed, Alten, Raiph; Knote, Blass, Muhimann. Conductor, Heriz.

Sat. Mat., Dec. 23, at 2-"LA FAVORITA"-Walker, Jomelli, Caruso, Scotti, Plancon, Bars.
Conductor, Vigna.

Sat. Ev., Dec. 23 (Pop. Prices), at 8-"LA TRA-VIATA"-Sembrich, Jacoby, Bauermeister; Dippel Parvis, Bars, Dufriche, Begue. Conductor, Vigna.

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BEETHOVEN, Quartet in D, op. 18: ROBERT FUCHS, "Andante Sostenuto" from Quartet, op. 62: MAX REGER, "Vivace," from Quartet in D minor, op. 74: SMETANA, Quartet (Aus melmen Leben).

Tickets \$2, at offices Musical Art Society, 1 W 34th St., and 21 E. 17th St. and at door.

Tag Connert will be repeated the next evening for

THE CARNEGIE HALL at 8.15

ORCHESTRA

Program includes: Over-ture, "Leonore." Bechoven; Symphonic Variations for Plano, with Orchestra, Cesar Franck, and by general re-quest Symphony Pathetique, Tachalkowsky. Walter Damrosch, Bessie Abott | Raoul Pugno BELASCO THEATRE, Ev. 8. Mai. Sat'y. 2.

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